

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 11 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at, for example, page 7, line 28 to page 8, line 2. Claims 8 and 11 have been amended to correct antecedent basis. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Personal Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Tamai in the May 25 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

II. Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings as failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action states that the lead wire connected to the second contact in the rotation direction of the rotational shaft must be shown. As agreed in the May 25 personal interview, claim 1 has been amended in view of this objection to recite "said lead wire is indirectly attached," which is sufficiently illustrated in the Figures. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

III. Informalities Objection

The Office Action objects to claims 1-12 and 14-16 based on informalities. As agreed in the May 25 personal interview, claim 1 has been amended in view of this objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

IV. Rejection Under §103(a)**A. Rejection Over Kumagaya, Inoue And Sprando**

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over JP 54-115704 to Kumagaya et al. (hereinafter "Kumagaya"), JP 2001-095195 to Inoue and U.S. Patent No. 2,781,463 to Sprando. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kumagaya fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Kumagaya teaches lead wires (4) that are flexible to provide workability and prevent wire breakage. However, Kumagaya fails to teach that a tip of the lead wires (4) is connected to a flexible member by caulking. Instead, Kumagaya merely teaches that the lead wires (4) are flexible and are connected to the cut end of the stator (2) by solder (5) (Fig. 4 and page 4, line 21 to page 5, line 14). Thus, Kumagaya fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1.

Inoue fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Inoue teaches a flexible, aluminum lead wire (flexible junction wire 11) is used for electrically connecting the coil with external wiring through a terminal block (connection terminal 10). However, Inoue fails to teach that a tip of the flexible junction wire (11) is connected to a flexible member by caulking. Instead, Inoue merely teaches that an end of the flexible junction wire (11) and an end (10a) of the connection terminal (10) are joined by welding. Thus, Inoue fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1.

Sprando fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Sprando teaches a lead wire from the motor coil (17) being indirectly attached to a contact

(grooved section 41) in a rotation shaft direction via the flexible member (motor terminal wires 48) (Fig. 1). However, Sprando fails to teach that a tip of the lead wires is connected to the motor terminal wires (48) by caulking. Instead, Sprando merely teaches that the motor terminal wires (48) must be of sufficient length so that the ends each wrap around section (41) and are soldered thereto. Thus, Sprando fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1.

Applicants do not concede that Kumagaya, Inoue or Sprando, alone or in combination, teach or render obvious the features recited in dependent claims 14 and 15. However, it is unnecessary to separately discuss the features recited in the dependent claims given the existence of clear and distinguishing features in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

B. Rejection Over Kumagaya, Inoue, Sprando And Sasamoto

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,132,584 to Sasamoto et al. (hereinafter "Sasamoto"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection is based on the assertion that the combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando teaches or renders obvious all the features of claim 1, from which claims 2 and 3 depend. As discussed above, the combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando does not teach or render obvious all the features of claim 1.

Sasamoto fails to make up for the deficiencies of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando. Specifically, Sasamoto fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1. Sasamoto teaches a flexible wire (57) with a deformable portion (57a) that conducts electricity to the stator windings but reduces the transmissions of vibrations between the stator and the support. However, Sasamoto fails to teach that a tip of the flexible wire (57) is connected to a flexible member

by caulking. Thus, Sasamoto fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1.

Thus, the deficiencies of the combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando are not cured by the addition of Sasamoto, and the rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 2 and 3 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

C. Rejection Over Kumagaya, Inoue, Sprando And Katsuzawa

The Office Action rejects claims 4, 5, 11, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0050752 to Katsuzawa et al. (hereinafter "Katsuzawa"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection is based on the assertion that the combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando teaches or renders obvious all the features of claim 1, from which claims 4, 5, 11, 12 and 16 depend. As discussed above, the combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando does not teach or render obvious all the features of claim 1.

Katsuzawa fails to make up for the deficiencies of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando. Specifically, Katsuzawa fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1. Katsuzawa teaches leads (7) connected to a terminal base (80) without the need for a flexible member since the leads (7) are sufficiently flexible. Thus, Katsuzawa fails to teach a need for a flexible member or a flexible member connected to a tip of the leads (7) by caulking. Thus, Katsuzawa fails to teach or render obvious "said flexible member is connected to a tip of said lead wire by caulking," as recited in claim 1.

Thus, the deficiencies of the combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando are not cured by the addition of Sasamoto, and the rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 4, 5, 11, 12 and 16 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Additionally, Katsuzawa fails to teach or render obvious "said terminal is fastened to said internal conductor by said fixing member in a state where said spring-like portion is deformed such that said terminal is positioned along a perpendicular direction to said motor rotation shaft direction," as recited in claim 11. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Katsuzawa teaches a plate terminal (conductive plates 81 by means of terminal members 83) on the tip of the flexible lead (leads 7). Additionally, the Office Action asserts that Katsuzawa teaches that the leads (7) are connected to the conductive plate (81) on the terminal base (80) by means of screws (82) (Fig. 12). However, the terminal members (83) or conductive plates (81) of Katsuzawa are not equivalent to the recited terminal because the terminal members (83) and conductive plates (81) of Katsuzawa are positioned along a parallel direction to said motor rotation shaft direction (X-X) (Fig. 12). Thus, Katsuzawa fails to teach or render obvious "said terminal is fastened to said internal conductor by said fixing member in a state where said spring-like portion is deformed such that said terminal is positioned along a perpendicular direction to said motor rotation shaft direction," as recited in claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

D. Rejection Over Kumagaya, Inoue, Sprando, Sasamoto And Katsuzawa

The Office Action rejects claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kumagaya, Inoue, Sprando and Sasamoto and further in view of Katsuzawa. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection is based on the assertion that the combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando teaches or renders obvious all the features of claim 1, from which claims 6-10 depend. As discussed above, the combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando does not teach or render obvious all the features of claim 1.

Additionally, as discussed above, Sasamoto and Katsuzawa, alone or in combination, fail to cure the deficiencies of combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando.

Thus, the deficiencies of the combination of Kumagaya, Inoue and Sprando are not cured by the addition of Sasamoto and Katsuzawa, and the rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 6-10 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Additionally, Katsuzawa fails to teach or render obvious "said terminal is fastened to said internal conductor by said fixing member in a state where said flexible bus bar is deformed such that said terminal is positioned along a perpendicular direction to said motor rotation shaft direction," as recited in claim 8. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Katsuzawa teaches a plate terminal (conductive plates 81 by means of terminal members 83) on the tip of the flexible lead (leads 7). Additionally, the Office Action asserts that Katsuzawa teaches that the leads (7) are connected to the conductive plate (81) on the terminal base (80) by means of screws (82) (Fig. 12). However, the terminal members (83) or conductive plates (81) of Katsuzawa are not equivalent to the recited terminal because the terminal members (83) and conductive plates (81) of Katsuzawa are positioned along a parallel direction to said motor rotation shaft direction (X-X) (Fig. 12). Thus, Katsuzawa fails to teach or render obvious "said terminal is fastened to said internal conductor by said fixing member in a state where said flexible bus bar is deformed such that said terminal is positioned along a perpendicular direction to said motor rotation shaft direction," as recited in claim 8.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

Date: June 10, 2010

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